

Claim 1. (withdrawn) A slingbag comprising:

a flexible mat,

a plurality of lifting loops, and

a pallet;

wherein said lifting loops are durably attached to said flexible mat and are positioned about said flexible mat, so that when all of said lifting loops are raised for attachment to a single point pick-up, said flexible mat forms a sling with containing sides and a bottom.

Claim 2. (withdrawn) A slingbag as in claim 1 wherein said flexible mat is of polypropylene.

Claim 3. (withdrawn) A slingbag as in claim 1 wherein said flexible mat is T-shaped, and wherein there are eight lifting loops; wherein one of said lifting loops is durably attached to said T-shaped mat at each exterior corner.

Claim 4. (withdrawn) A slingbag as in claim 3 wherein said flexible mat is of polypropylene.

Claim 5. (withdrawn) A slingbag comprising a flexible mat and a plurality of lifting loops;

wherein said flexible mat is T-shaped, and

wherein said plurality of lifting loops are durably attached to said flexible mat at the exterior corners of said T-shaped flexible mat.

Claim 6. (withdrawn) A slingbag as in claim 5 wherein said plurality of lifting loops are positioned about said flexible mat so that, when all of said lifting loops are raised for attachment to a single point pick-up, said flexible mat forms a sling with four sides and a bottom.

Claim 7. (withdrawn) A slingbag as in claim 5 further comprising a pallet.

Claim 8. (withdrawn) A slingbag as in claim 5 wherein said T-shaped mat further comprises four side flaps extending out from a center panel.

Claim 9. (withdrawn) A slingbag as in claim 8 wherein there are four of said lifting loops and wherein each of said lifting loops durably connects one exterior corner of a side flap of said T-shaped mat to the most proximate exterior corner on another side flap.

Claim 10. (withdrawn) A slingbag as in claim 8 wherein said T-shaped flexible mat further comprises two rectangular mats, overlapped perpendicularly in a cross pattern and durably joined together, and wherein there are eight of said lifting loops.

Claim 11. (withdrawn) A slingbag as in claim 10, wherein the means to join said rectangular mats together to form said T-shaped flexible mat is sewing.

Claim 12. (withdrawn) A slingbag as in claim 10, wherein said slingbag further comprises a plurality of ties, wherein two or more of said ties are durably attached to each side flap of said T-shaped flexible mat.

Claim 13. (withdrawn) A slingbag as in claim 12 wherein said flexible mat is of polypropylene.

Claim 14. (withdrawn) A slingbag as in claim 12 wherein said center panel of said T-shaped mat is sized to fit on a standard pallet.

Claim 15 (currently amended) A method for stacking fill material onto pallets for efficient loading aboard transport vehicles, using a forklift and slingbags, wherein each of said slingbags comprises a center panel sized to fit atop said pallet, a plurality of side ~~panels~~ flaps, a plurality of ties attached to each side flap, and a plurality of lifting loops; comprising the steps of:

placing said center panel of said slingbag on said pallet;

stacking fill material onto said pallet to a height less than or equal to the approximate height of said side flaps of said slingbag when said side flaps are folded up;

folding up said side flaps of said slingbag; and

securely fastening said ties attached to each side flap to said ties of the adjacent said side flaps of said slingbag.

Claim 16. (original) A method as in claim 15 further comprising wrapping the loaded slingbag with polyethylene.

Claim 17. (original) A method as in claim 15 further comprising loading said pallet aboard said transport vehicle using said forklift.

Claim 18. (original) A method as in claim 17 further comprising:

wrapping the loaded slingbag with polyethylene, and  
stacking loaded pallets atop one another.

Claim 19. (currently amended) A method for efficiently loading and unloading filled ~~burlap~~ bags for transport using pallets, a forklift, a single point pick-up, and slingbags, wherein each of said slingbags comprises a center panel sized to fit atop said pallet, a plurality of side ~~panels~~ flaps, a plurality of ties attached to each side flap, and a plurality of lifting loops; comprising the steps of:

placing the center panel of a slingbag on a pallet;

stacking filled ~~burlap~~ bags onto said pallet;

folding up the side ~~panels~~ flaps of said slingbag;

securely fastening the ties attached to each side flap to said ties of the adjacent said side flaps of said slingbag ~~side flaps~~ so that said slingbag contains the ~~burlap~~ bags;

securely fastening the plurality of lifting loops together atop the loaded slingbag;

loading the loaded pallet onto a transport using a forklift; and

deploying said loaded slingbag from said pallet using a single point pick-up to grasp said lifting loops of said sling bag.

Claim 20. (original) A method as in claim 19 further comprising the step of wrapping the loaded slingbag with polyethylene prior to loading the pallet onto the transport.

Claim 21. (original) A method as in claim 19 further comprising the step of unloading said loaded pallet from the transport using a forklift once said transport has taken said pallet to the final destination.

Claim 22. (currently amended) A method as in claim 19 further comprising the step of lowering said slingbag for underwater deployment, wherein divers may unload the ~~burlap~~ bags from said slingbag and position as needed.

Claim 23. (currently amended) A method as in claim 19 wherein said ~~burlap~~ bags are 60 lbs.

burlap bags.

Claim 24. (original) A method as in claim 23 wherein said pallet is a standard wooden pallet.

Claim 25. (currently amended) A method as in claim 19 wherein ~~burlap~~ bags are stacked onto said pallet to a height less than or equal to the approximate height of the side flaps of said slingbag when said side flaps are folded up.

Claim 26. (original) A method as in claim 23 wherein approximately 56 burlap bags are stacked onto the pallet.